



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

VOL. XXVII.

NOVEMBER 1, 1912.

No. 44.

COMMON DRINKING CUPS.

AMENDMENT TO INTERSTATE QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, October 30, 1912.

To medical officers of the Public Health Service, State and local health authorities, and others concerned:

On account of the frequent spread of disease by the use of common drinking cups, the following amendment is hereby made to the Interstate Quarantine Regulations promulgated by this department September 27, 1894, and amended August 17, 1905, June 24, 1909, and May 15, 1912, said amendment and regulations being in accordance with section 3, act of Congress approved February 15, 1893.

Article 3, General Regulations, is hereby amended by the addition of the following paragraph:

PARAGRAPH 13. Common carriers shall not provide in cars, vehicles, vessels, or conveyances operated in interstate traffic, or in depots, waiting rooms, or other places used by passengers traveling from one State or Territory or the District of Columbia to another State or Territory or the District of Columbia, any drinking cup, glass, or vessel for common use: *Provided*, That this regulation shall not be held to preclude the use of drinking cups, glasses, or vessels which are thoroughly cleansed by washing in boiling water after use by each individual, nor shall it be held to preclude the use of sanitary devices for individual use only.

FRANKLIN MACVEAGH,
Secretary.

POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS).

The importance of the notification of cases of diseases, the causes and means of spread of which are unknown, has been clearly demonstrated in the case of poliomyelitis. This disease had been shown to be infectious, but its means of transmission, whether or not it is contagious, and how to prevent its spread were not known.

The notification of cases of this disease in Massachusetts enabled the State board of health to carefully study the relation of cases to

each other and the conditions under which they occurred. The result of this epidemiologic study of reported cases carried on for the past five years under the direction of Dr. Mark W. Richardson, secretary and executive officer of the board, suggested strongly the possibility of the disease being transmitted by the biting stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*). To clear up this point Prof. M. J. Rosenau, of the Harvard Medical School, undertook a series of experiments and succeeded in transmitting the disease in monkeys by this biting fly. As noted in last week's issue of the Public Health Reports, Anderson and Frost have confirmed Rosenau's work and successfully transmitted the disease to monkeys by first letting these flies bite infected monkeys and then bite fresh monkeys.

From the standpoint of the control of the disease, these findings are of the greatest importance. While the demonstration that the disease can be transmitted in this way does not preclude the possibility that it may be transmitted also in other ways, common experience in the diseases found to be transmitted by an intermediate insect host or vector has been that such transmission has been in most cases the only one demonstrable. The discovery that poliomyelitis may be spread by the stable fly gives health authorities a tangible basis for their efforts to control the disease. It suggests that effective screening to keep flies from the sick will prove of paramount importance, and that other forms of quarantine may be unnecessary. It gives added importance to the cases of paralysis in animals frequently reported in localities where cases of poliomyelitis have occurred in man and gives an additional reason for the careful screening of buildings, the regulation of the maintenance of stables and the keeping of animals in cities, and the prevention of conditions making possible the breeding of flies.

Buffalo, N. Y.—The outbreak of poliomyelitis at Buffalo continues to subside. During the week ended October 26 only 6 cases were reported. The disease continues present to some extent in many localities in the western counties of New York State. Only a few cases, however, are being reported in any locality. With the advent of cold weather the disease will probably disappear.

OUTBREAK OF SEVEN-DAY FEVER IN THE CANAL ZONE.

By J. C. PERRY, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

History.—The outbreak of seven-day fever began during the last few days of May. From May 23 to June 30 there were admitted to Ancon Hospital 24 cases. The first cases came from the Ancon post office, 5 being admitted from this place in rapid succession; 15 other cases were admitted during June from the bachelors' quarters (residence building) across the street from the post office. Dr. W. E. Deeks, chief of the medical clinic of Ancon Hospital, recognized the fever as not malarial, although at first it was considered that a severe localized outbreak of that disease had occurred without any apparent reason, as no anopheles mosquitoes were found in the vicinity.